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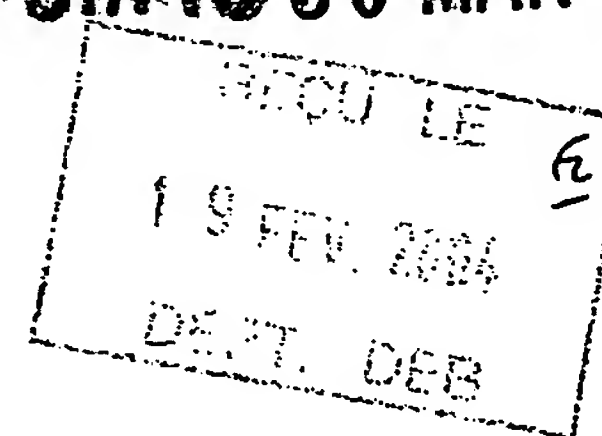
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Zeichen/Ref./Réf. 3-886 EPA 1	Anmeldung Nr./Application No./Demande n°/Patent Nr./Patent No./Brevet n°. 03078044.9-2307- ✓
Anmelder/Applicant/Demandeur/Patentinhaber/Proprietor/Titulaire ATOFINA Research Société Anonyme	

## COMMUNICATION

The European Patent Office herewith transmits as an enclosure the European search report for the above-mentioned European patent application.

If applicable, copies of the documents cited in the European search report are attached.

☐ Additional set(s) of copies of the documents cited in the European search report is (are) enclosed as well.

The following specifications given by the applicant have been approved by the Search Division:

☒ abstract

☒ title

☐ The abstract was modified by the Search Division and the definitive text is attached to this communication.

The following figure will be published together with the abstract: NONE

## REFUND OF THE SEARCH FEE

If applicable under Article 10 Rules relating to fees, a separate communication from the Receiving Section on the refund of the search fee will be sent later.



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DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.7)
A	PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 1999, no. 04, 30 April 1999 (1999-04-30) & JP 11 019183 A (MATERIAL ENG TECH LAB INC), 26 January 1999 (1999-01-26) * abstract *	1-7	A61J1/00 B65D35/08
A	EP 1 090 621 A (NISSHO KK) 11 April 2001 (2001-04-11) * abstract * * paragraphs '0023!', '0025!' *	1	
A	DATABASE WPI Section Ch, Week 199846 Derwent Publications Ltd., London, GB; Class A17, AN 1998-536930 XP002269024 & JP 10 236451 A (TOYO SEIKAN KK), 8 September 1998 (1998-09-08) * abstract *	1	
A	PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 2000, no. 09, 13 October 2000 (2000-10-13) & JP 2000 157611 A (MATERIAL ENG TECH LAB INC), 13 June 2000 (2000-06-13) * abstract *	1	TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.7) A61J B65D A61M
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search MUNICH		Date of completion of the search 4 February 2004	Examiner Attalla, G
<div>CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS</div> <div>X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document</div> <div>T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons &amp; : member of the same patent family, corresponding document</div>			

**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT  
ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.**

EP 03 07 8044

This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report.  
The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on  
The European Patent Office is in no way liable for these particulars which are merely given for the purpose of information.

04-02-2004

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
JP 11019183	A	26-01-1999	NONE	
EP 1090621	A	11-04-2001	DE 60004618 D1	25-09-2003
			EP 1090621 A1	11-04-2001
			JP 2001172441 A	26-06-2001
			US 6545096 B1	08-04-2003
JP 10236451	A	08-09-1998	NONE	
JP 2000157611	A	13-06-2000	NONE	



This application is covered by the extended European search report pilot project at present running within the European Patent Office, applied to all European patent applications filed as first filing and searched on or after 01.07.03. Under this project the EPO issues together with the search report an opinion on whether the application and the invention to which it relates meet the requirements of the EPC. This non-binding opinion is issued free of charge as a service. This opinion may be used as the basis for an informed decision as to whether it is desired to pursue the application further or not.

For further details of this pilot project, the applicant's attention is directed to the Official Journal edition 5/2003. If any further immediate questions or comments arise the EPO Customer Services: +31-70-340 4500 or +49-89-2399 2828 can be contacted.

**The examination has revealed that the application and the invention to which it relates meet the requirements of the Convention.**

If the applicant wishes to continue with this application, the examination fee must be paid. The communication under Rule 51(4) EPC will then be issued promptly unless a final topping-up search carried out at least 18 months after the filing date reveals new prior art under Article 54(3) EPC or the assigned examining division disagrees with the positive opinion.

If the examination fee has already been paid and the right to the communication under Article 96(1) EPC has been waived for this application, the communication under Rule 51(4) EPC will also be issued promptly unless a final topping-up search carried out at least 18 months after the filing date reveals new prior art under Article 54(3) EPC or the assigned examining division disagrees with the positive opinion.

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